**Board of Selectmen Amended Meeting Minutes**

**10/4/2017, Rhodes Building, 7:00pm**

**Present**: Selectman Martell, Selectman Ribeiro, and Selectman Pearson, Judy Eiseman, Fred Vanderbeck, John Trickey, Kathy Martell, and Susannah Carey.

**Open**: Selectman Martell opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

**Response to Minutes**

Minutes from 6/12/17 and 6/21/17, Kathy Martell would like them amended. Selectman Martell recuses himself and leaves the room. Discussion involved past Collector/Treasurer, Nancy Grossman, and her complaints towards Town Clerk.

From minutes 6/12/17 striking words ‘per law’ from page 2 and the minutes from 6/21/17 striking ‘and the board’ from page 4.

Motion to approve minutes from 6/12/17 and 6/21/17 as amended, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, motion passes.

**Town Officials**

Kathy Martell noticed a potential Open Meeting Law violation when the Energy Committee and Board of Selectmen held a joint meeting on 7/19/2017. Selectman Martell was not at that meeting. The agenda included the Board of Selectmen to participate in the discussion of the meeting. Items that did not appear on the agenda but were voted on included expanding the Energy Committee, Re-appointing Dan Robb, and appointing John Larsen as new member. Selectman Pearson would like to ask KP Law about legal standpoint here. John Trickey asked why we are spending money to ask attorneys questions that can be answered by reading and learning the open meeting law. Question from Judy Eiseman why no one has consulted the Open Meeting Law packet (page 7, 3 paragraphs with information). Selectman Pearson would like to table this item and add to the next agenda and have documentation provided for such discussion. Motion to discuss at next Board meeting on 10/18/17, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, Selectman Martell abstains, motion passes.

Open Meeting Law will be changing on 10/6/2017. Everyone present received the new document with the changes. Selectman Pearson and Selectman Ribeiro also received packets with the changes/additions shown as requested from Town Clerk.

John Trickey and Accountant Gail Weiss have discussed changes to Article 8 on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant (regarding Elementary School budget and cost of Charter School tuition FY2018). Either Gail will rework the wording on Article 8 or the Article will have to be amended on the Fall Town Meeting floor by the Finance Committee. The amount would have been found sooner if the past Treasurer/Collector had completed the reconciliation for June 2017.

John Trickey voiced concerns about an article that appeared in the Amherst Bulletin that Pelham, Amherst, and Northampton formed an organization without Town vote to pursue Community Choice Aggregation as a community. Group formed is an unaffiliated, ad-hoc group with members from the 3 communities. Language on Western MA Clean Energy website stated that 3 Towns were participating. Language needs to be corrected and changed to ‘citizens from the Town of Pelham.’ Selectman Ribeiro will contact the person to change the wording on the website.

**Public Comment**

Judy Eiseman, Planning Board member, gave an update on what is being discussed and pursued by the Planning Board; a consultant is looking over the Village Center plans, Board is speaking with Guilford Mooring regarding sewer and water possibilities, and they are reviewing development issues and the many constraints the Land Study report identified in Pelham.

**Liaison Reports**

**Highway**; Selectman Pearson; There is money left in the roof budget to apply for additional ice dams on the Community Building. MDM will be returning to fix the shingles and could do the ice dam work. Rick spoke with MA Highway, which still has the Amherst Road project open, about the rippling in the road down by the log cabins and the dip/bump in the road by 340 Amherst Road. Comment by Judy Eiseman about Arnold Road extension being very helpful.

**Town Offices**; Selectman Pearson; Edna has the reconciliation through June accomplished. Gail and Edna will still need to balance as there appears to be a discrepancy. Alisa will encourage Edna to change the message on her machine when she is out of the office.

**Fire Department**; Selectman Martell; everything ok.

**Police Department**; Selectman Martell; Coffee with Cop event on 10/4/2017-not many showed up.

**Energy Committee**; Selectman Pearson; Rick spoke with Tony Rogers about the glycol issue (rusted pipes) in Community Center building and they will work together on this. Energy Committee was the recipient of a META grant to hire a consultant to complete a Town Assessment for Solar. Award was for $12,500.00. Procurement to be determined-call out the Attorney General’s office by Susannah Carey.

**Finance Committee**; Selectman Martell; Meeting in December.

**Library**; Selectman Ribeiro; New songwriter Tracy Walker to hold 8-week group which meets on Tuesdays, good concerts, and always need for money for more books and bookshelves.

**Elementary School**; Selectman Ribeiro; Karen was not able to attend meeting on 10/3/2017 due to Energy Committee meeting the same night. Fred Vanderbeck reported that the interim superintendent will be decided at a joint meeting on 10/10/17; both regional and elementary school getting ready for Fall Town Meeting with regards to budget and charter; Survey results will be discussed as to why 4 children from Pelham attended charter/private schools instead of Pelham School and how to prevent students from leaving in the future. Results from Pelham were mixed together with Amherst for privacy reasons as those households were easily identifiable.

**Regional School**; Selectman Ribeiro; Superintendent conversation continues-Interim Superintendent Michael Morris has support from community to become permanent. Support with about a dozen people giving personal testimony to his performance. Two spoke in favor of a more equitable national search.

Regional Assessment Working Group; John Trickey; Advisory group to superintendent made up of Finance Committee, Select Board, and School Committee members from Pelham and other surrounding town(Amherst, Leverett, Shutesbury). Group will be recommending new assessment to present to all 4 towns for October 11th at 5:30pm. Sean Mangano is the facilitator with hired consultant, Mark Abrams & Associates.

**Old Business**

Recommendation to have Slate newsletter printed 4 times per year; January, April, July, & October. Keep continued communication with Townspeople and bring more excitement to join groups with vacancies. Idea to include kids column in the Slate was well received. Selectman Ribeiro recommended handing out survey for MVP grant at Fall Town Meeting with url listed. She asked all present for feedback and suggestions. Town would have an idea of what people want to engage in or what excites them to participate from the survey results. Idea to have vendor for MVP grant chosen to go door to door and ask about survey and their participation in Town. Selectman Martell stated if the Town could use the grant money received from the MVP survey/postcard that would be ideal. When the Council on Aging sent postcards to the senior population of ~500 residents, most were not in favor of meals from Highland Valley nor anymore mailers. The survey received back resulted with an 85% response rate. When Susannah prints the Slate in house she is saving town about $300.00 by not having a copy shop print and prepare the mailing. Susannah has slower periods in the fall time, which enabled her this time to print the Warrant & Slate. There was disappointment with lack of oversight in effective process and being blindsided at Town Meeting over the survey needing a vote.

Motion to increase Slate newsletter to 4 times per year and have the April Slate/Warrant printed at copy shop at Susannah Carey’s discretion for remainder of mailers, seconded by Selectman Pearson, unanimously approved.

Motion to have monthly Board of Selectmen’s meetings on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 7:00pm, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved.

Susannah Carey will check with Katie Theoharides about anticipated dates for MVP grant or steps/forms to complete along the way as the town has been without any guidance or new materials to proceed with. 2 solicitations have been received by Administrative Assistant.

Open Meeting Law seminar to be scheduled for November 2, 2017 at 6:00pm in Ramsdell Room. Susannah will send out email to town officials and other surrounding towns about the date.

Susannah will send Stan Swiercz, Energy Committee, the MMA invitation for MunEnergy Breakfast Series on October 26, 2017 in East Longmeadow and see if he’s interested in attending. None of the Select Board members could attend that day.

Selectman Pearson asked that Communication between all Departments be added to the agenda to improve meeting procedure. On next agenda, minutes and Community Hall Accessibility.

Next mailers that are sent out should mention Pelham’s 275th Anniversary.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, unanimously approved at 8:47pm.

**Documents Examined**

Fall Town Meeting Warrant, Current Grant Spreadsheet, MMA MunEnergy breakfast series invitation.

Respectfully submitted, Susannah Carey